

Opening Statement
The Honorable Ralph Hall (R-TX)
Ranking Member, Committee on Science and Technology
Full Committee Markup

- H.R. 2406, To Authorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology to increase its efforts in support of the integration of the healthcare information enterprise in the United States
- H.R. 3877, Mine Communications Technology Innovation Act
- H.R. 1834, the National Ocean Exploration Program Act

October 24, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased that this committee is marking up three good bills today. H.R. 2406 will help clarify and codify NIST's role in the integration of health information technology. NIST has played an important role in health information technology through their work with the department of health and human services, and this legislation helps them continue that vital role as we develop interoperability standards.

H.R. 3877 offers another opportunity to clarify NIST's role in the important area of mine communications technology. As the tragedy in Utah unfortunately illustrated, we have a lot of work to do to improve communications between surface personnel and underground miners so as to advance miner health and safety.

Finally, H.R. 1834 authorizes two programs that are already in existence at NOAA, the Ocean Exploration Program and the National Undersea Research Program. These are two excellent initiatives, and it is time that we codify their goals and objectives into law.

I would like to thank you and your staff for working with us to improve these bills and craft good policy.

I yield back the balance of my time.